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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 001268

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/28/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [LE](#) [MU](#)  
SUBJECT: OMAN CONSIDERS RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FOR  
LEBANON

REF: A. STATE 139903

[B](#). MUSCAT 01248  
[C](#). MUSCAT 01239

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo. Reason: 1.4 (b,d).

[1](#). (C) At a meeting with Omani Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi on August 27, the Ambassador

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urged the Omani government to consider providing humanitarian aid and reconstruction assistance to Lebanon in addition to the humanitarian supplies already delivered (ref B). Al-Busaidi responded that Oman was in direct contact with the government of Lebanon, and that he hoped the Omani government cabinet would approve additional assistance for Lebanese reconstruction. He noted that a government sub-committee, which included the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was currently studying the possibility of further aid for Lebanon.

[2](#). (C) Al-Busaidi continued that there was some concern in the Omani government that a portion of possible financial assistance for Lebanon might not reach its intended purpose due to corruption. For this reason, Oman had so far limited its aid to humanitarian supplies, and would need to carefully examine different mechanisms available to receive and administer financial contributions for Lebanon. (He cited UNICEF as a potentially acceptable channel for monetary aid.) Al-Busaidi added that a possible Omani contribution would be mostly "symbolic" in comparison to cash pledged by wealthier GCC governments.

[3](#). (C) Regarding security assistance for Lebanon, al-Busaidi stated that the Omani Ministry of Defense would take the lead in evaluating what assistance, if any, could be provided to the Lebanese Armed Forces. The Ambassador concluded the discussion by offering to supply information to address Omani concerns or questions on reconstruction and security support for Lebanon.  
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